

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 13, 2004. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are pending and have been amended. Support for the claim changes can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added. Claims 1 and 7 are in independent form.

It is noted that the Office Action Summary sheet does not acknowledge Applicant's claim for foreign priority or receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. However, foreign priority was claimed on the Application Data Sheet filed with the subject application and the foreign priority document was filed on November 3, 2003. Accordingly, acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and of receipt of the foreign priority document is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has amended the claims accordingly, with careful attention to the points raised by the Examiner. Applicant submits that the claims comply with Section 112. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,760,797 (*Koizumi et al.*). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

One feature of independent Claim 1 is a supporting member supporting a printing element board, the supporting member being formed with a common electrode wiring line for

connecting electrode wiring lines used to supply electric signals of a same kind or electric power of a same kind, among the electrode wiring lines of a wiring member.

For example, as shown in Figs. 1A-1C, supporting member 20 supports printing element board 10 (see Fig. 5 for an exploded perspective view of these elements). A common electrode wiring line 21 is formed on supporting member 20. Common electrode wiring line 21 connects certain ones of wiring lines 31. See, e.g., page 15, line 18 - page 16, line 14. (Of course, the detail of the figures is not to be taken as limiting the scope of the claims.)

By virtue of this feature of the invention as set forth in the claimed combination of Claim 1, a greater number of wiring lines may be provided, in view of the space saved by making certain wiring lines common. See, e.g., page 16, lines 15-25.

In contrast, the prior art lacks a common electrode wiring line that is formed on the supporting member and connects wiring lines. Accordingly, the above-stated advantage may not be achieved in the prior art. See, e.g., Figs. 7A-7B, page 8, line 16 - page 9, line 16.

Koizumi et al. relates to an ink jet recording head with an adjustable temperature sensor. As shown in Fig. 20, a heater board 441 comprises a silicon substrate on which electrical/thermal converting elements (discharging heaters) 445 and aluminum wirings 446 for supplying electric power to the discharging heaters are formed. Col. 18, lines 27-31.

The Office Action (page 3) cites *Koizumi et al.*'s aluminum wirings 446 thus: "said supporting member being formed with an electrode wiring line (446) for connecting the electrode wiring lines (446), which supply the electric signal of the same kind or the electric power of the same kind, with each other among the electrode wiring lines (446) connected with the electrode of said printing element board."

However, Applicant submits that nothing in *Koizumi et al.* would teach or suggest at least a supporting member supporting a printing element board, the supporting member being formed with a common electrode wiring line for connecting electrode wiring lines used to supply electric signals of a same kind or electric power of a same kind, among the electrode wiring lines of a wiring member.

Specifically, aluminum wiring 446 is formed only on a heater board 441, not on a supporting member. Moreover, aluminum wiring 446 is not understood to be a common electrode wiring line, such as is recited in Claim 1.

Since *Koizumi et al.* is not seen to contain all of the elements of independent Claim 1, that claim is believed allowable over the cited art. Since independent Claim 7 recites features similar to those of Claim 1, Claim 7 is also believed allowable for at least the same reasons as pertain to Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Douglas W. Pinsky", is written over a horizontal line.

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